bankable projects including projects involving creation of infrastructure facilities subject to a ceiling of Rs. 500 crorc for a single project. In the case of power generation projects, however, the ceiling on term loans which can be granted by banks in consortia/syndicate for a single project had been fixed at Rs. 1000 crores (with a sub-ceiling of Rs. 400 crores for fund-based facility). The stipulation regarding the cciling/sub-cciling on the quantum of term loan which can be granted by banks individually or in consortia/syndicate for a single project was reviewed in September 1997 and it was decided to dispense with this stipulation.

Accordingly, banks were given the discretion in September, 1997 to sanction term loans to all projects including infrastructure projects within the overall ceiling of the prudential exposure norms prescribed by RBI viz. 25 per cent of the capital funds in the case of an individual borrower and 50 per cent in the case of a borrower group. The group exposure norms of 50 per cent has also been permitted to be exceeded to the extent of 10 per cent provided the additional exposure is for the purpose of financial infrastructure projects viz. projects in areas of power telecommunications, roads and ports.

(b) and (c) The existing date reporting system of RBI Joes not generate such information.

Seizure of Foreign Currccny At IGI Airport

1440. SHRI N. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign currency amounting to Rs. 2.70 crores in Indian currency was seized at IGI Airport, New Delhi on 1/2.11.96;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the seizure was made on the basis of a specific information provided by the informer;

(c) if so, whether the informer has been rewarded suitably; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) how many cases of seizures were made on the basis of specific information during the last two years all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) Yes, it is a fact that foreign currency amounting to Rs. 2.70 crores in Indian currency was seized at IGI Airport, New Delhi, on 1/ 2.11.96.

(b) The records do indicate a specific information relating to the seizure.

(c) The reward to the informer has not been paid so far. The same is under consideration of the authority competent to sanction the reward.

(d) The number of seizure cases booked/detected all over India, under the Customs Act, 1962, during the last two financial years i.e. years 1996-97 & 1997-98 were 16132 & 21779 respectively. Out of above) the number of seizure cases booked/detected on the basis of specific information were 1152 and 1007 respectively.

NBFCs Under Insurance cover

1441. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Non-Banking Finance Companies and even Public Limited Companies are defaulting in returning fixed deposits received from public;

(b) if so, which are the compmies and what action has been taken by Government to protect depositors interests, particulary small depositors and pensioners;